

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-48 stand cancelled without prejudice.

49. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

 a signal line;

 a first switch comprising:

 an anchor attached to a substrate,

 a first electrically conductive beam attached to the anchor and in electrical contact therewith, the first beam comprising:

 a tapered portion having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being attached to the anchor,

 an actuation portion attached to the distal end of the tapered portion,

 a tip attached to the actuation portion, the tip having a contact dimple thereon, and

 an actuation electrode attached to the substrate and positioned between the actuation portions portion and the substrate.

50. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 49, further comprising a second switch, wherein the second switch comprises:

 a second anchor attached to the substrate;

 a second electrically conductive beam attached to the second anchor and in electrical contact therewith, the second beam comprising:

a tapered portion having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being attached to the second anchor,
 an actuation portion attached to the distal end of the tapered portion, and
 a tip attached to the actuation portion, the tip having a contact dimple thereon.

51. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 50, wherein the beams are mechanically independent.
52. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 50, wherein the actuation portion of the first beam and the actuation portion of the second beam are joined.
53. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 50, wherein the actuation portion of the first beam and the actuation portion of the second beam are separated.
54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein each beam is comprised of gold (Au).
55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the beams are composite beams comprising a plurality of material layers.

56. (Original) The apparatus of claim 55 wherein the plurality of layers comprises a structural layer sandwiched between a pair of electrically conductive layers.
57. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein each anchor is connected to ground and wherein the contact dimples contact the signal line when the actuation electrode is activated.
58. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the contact dimples of the first beam and second beam are drawn into contact with the signal line in response to the actuation electrode being activated.
59. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:
 - a first signal line;
 - a second signal line;
 - a first switch comprising:
 - an anchor attached to the substrate,
 - a first electrically conductive beam attached to the anchor and in electrical contact therewith, the first beam comprising:
 - a tapered portion having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being attached to the anchor,
 - an actuation portion attached to the distal end of the tapered portion,

a tip attached to the actuation portion, the tip having a contact dimple thereon, and

an actuation electrode attached to the substrate and positioned between the actuation portions portion and the substrate.

60. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 59, further comprising a second switch, wherein the second switch comprises:

a second anchor attached to the substrate;

a second electrically conductive beam attached to the second anchor and in electrical contact therewith, the second beam comprising:

a tapered portion having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being attached to the second anchor,

an actuation portion attached to the distal end of the tapered portion, and

a tip attached to the actuation portion, the tip having a contact dimple thereon.

61. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 60, wherein each of the anchors comprise electrical insulators.

62. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 60, wherein the first beam and the second beam are mechanically connected and electrically responsive to each other.

63. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 60, wherein when the actuation electrode is activated, the contact dimples of the first beam are drawn to

the first signal line and the contact dimples of the second beam are drawn to the second signal line.

64. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 63, wherein the first beam transfers a signal from the first signal line to the second signal line through the second beam.